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purposes. In fact, many missiles were already in place, and a large number of airplanes, including twin-engine bombers, [redacted] ready to fly. The most dangerous thing about this capability was that medium-range ballistic missiles, with a range of 1100 nautical miles, could reach as far as Washington, and southward beyond the Panama Canal. The intermediate RBM's, with a range of 2200 nautical miles, could blanket the United States, with the exception of an area near Seattle, as well as reach south deep into Latin America.

The President ~~has~~ been considering this threat closely for some days. In fact, the abandonment of his campaign tour on the grounds of having a cold was a pretext for returning to Washington to face this unexpected development. The intelligence was [redacted] ascertained by high altitude reconnaisance photography, the validity of which is [redacted] not in doubt. I was instructed to see the Prime Minister tomorrow afternoon at four o'clock, while Acheson is to brief General de Gaulle and the NATO Council later that day, and Dowling is to report the affair to the Chancellor tomorrow evening. At midnight tomorrow (7:00 p. m. American time) the President is going on the air to declare how he intends to handle the crisis.

It appears there has been violent contention at home about what should be done. Some advocated the hard line of wiping out the bases and equipment, but a temporizing policy seems to have won the day. It is rather unclear as to what this consists of, but the President's talk will serve for [redacted] elucidation.

Archie, Chet Cooper (who is to brief us more fully tomorrow) and myself returned to London about three a. m. The plane went on to Paris, and thence to Bonn.

DEPT. OF STATE A/CDC/MR
NARA DATE 6-17-81

CAUTION